

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 JUSE-00

CIEP-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /067 W

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R 081600Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1671

INFO AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL MILAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EIND, IT, US

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED COMMITTEE DECIDES NOT TO CHARGE

AMERICANS AT THIS STAGE

REF: ROME 19914

1. NEWSPAPER REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY COMMITTEE DECIDED UNANIMOUSLY DURING ITS DECEMBER 7 MEETING NOT TO CHARGE ANY AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OF THE LOCKHEED COMPANY, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. CHARGES AGAINST ANY OF THE LOCKHEED EMPLOYEES WHO TESTIFIED VOLUNTARILY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE AUTOMATICALLY INVALIDATED THEIR TESTIMONY BECAUSE THE COMMITTEE FAILED TO GIVE PRIOR WARNING OF POSSIBLE INCRIMINATION TO THE AMERICAN WITNESSES.

2. ONE DC MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE DECISION WAS TAKEN "FOR REASONS OF PROCEDURAL TIMELINESS AND AFTER AN ATTENTIVE JUDICIAL EVALUATION, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME AFFIRMING THAT THE BROTHERS LEFEBVRE ACTED FOR THE ACCOUNT OF AND IN THE INTEREST OF THE AMERICAN COMPANY." THIS STATEMENT IS AT LEAST ONE OF THE REASONS WHY SEVERAL NEWAPERS MAINTAIN THAT THE COMMITTEE MAY DECIDE TO CHARGE AMERICAN LOCKHEED EMPLOYEES AFTER HAVING HEARD THE TESTIMONY OF THE ITALIAN ACCUSED.

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3. THE COMMITTEE WILL BEGIN INTERROGATION OF THE ITALIAN ACCUSED ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14. IT ENTERS THIS CRUCIAL PHASE OF ITS INVESTIGATION WITHOUT HAVING RESOLVED THE QUESTION OF THE ULTIMATE STATUS OF THE EVIDENCE PROVIDED BY THE AMERICAN LOCKHEED EMPLOYEES. IF THE ITALIANS WHO ALLEGEDLY ACCEPTED THE BRIBES AND KICKBACKS TESTIFY THAT THE AMERICAN LOCKHEED EMPLOYEES OFFERED THE ILLEGAL PAYMENTS, THEN THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN ITS DECEMBER 7 DECISION ONLY AT THE RISK OF BEING CENSURED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT FOR FAILING TO PERFORM ITS DUTY OF IDENTIFYING THE CORRUPTERS AS WELL AS THE CORRUPTED. BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CORRUPTION, AEROSPACE INDUSTRY, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, ALLEGATIONS, COURT PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME20003
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760454-0472
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761262/aaaacbgg.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ROME 19914
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOCKHEED COMMITTEE DECIDES NOT TO CHARGE AMERICANS AT THIS STAGE
TAGS: PINT, EIND, IT, US, LOCKHEED
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006